

For Immediate Release:

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DOYLE ISSUES PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL PROBATION, PAROLE & COMMUNITY SUPERVISION OFFICERS' WEEK

County Executive Jack Doyle today issued a proclamation to the Monroe County Probation Department recognizing National Probation, Parole & Community Supervision Officers' Week July 13 through the 19th and applauded the role the officers play the community's criminal and juvenile justice systems.

"As the oldest and most frequently applied alternative to incarceration, probation continues to provide important services that assist offenders in becoming law-abiding citizens while providing public safety protection to the community," said Doyle. "Today's recognition focuses on the men and women who, through their dedicated professionalism and their tireless devotion to duty as probation officers, provide a critical and vital service to the citizens of this community."

New York enacted its first probation law in 1901. In March of that year, Monroe County organized the first Probation Department in the state. By 1905 the staff included five and supervised 401 cases. Today, the department's staff consists of 201 and supervises more than 9,000 offenders.

"I am extremely proud of the dedication and talent exemplified by our current probation officers and other staff," said Robert Burns, director of the Monroe County Probation Department. "Our primary thrust is to provide crime prevention, public safety and law enforcement services to the community." Probation officers assist judges with sentencing decisions, supervise adults and juveniles on probation, support domestic violence victims who seek Orders of Protection, provide community service programs where offenders are required to work for not-for-profit agencies and offer a variety of alternative programs for non-violent offenders.

Officers routinely conduct surveillance and home visits, require regular urine and breath tests, and monitor offender behavior with probation warrant officers swiftly apprehending those probationers who fail to comply. Monroe County Probation is an active partner in the Crimestoppers program, deploying officers to apprehend our community's highest risk absconders.

Last year, 7,971 new adult and juvenile cases were handled by probation officers. \$618,650 was collected as restitution and disbursed to crime victims and more than 100,000 hours of community service were performed by offenders.

Many of today's probation officers are certified substance abuse counselors and specialize in securing appropriate treatment for the probationers they are assigned. Officers also provide adult and juvenile offenders with structured guidance, assistance in obtaining a wide range of community-based resources, housing, medical and mental health care, gainful employment and education.

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